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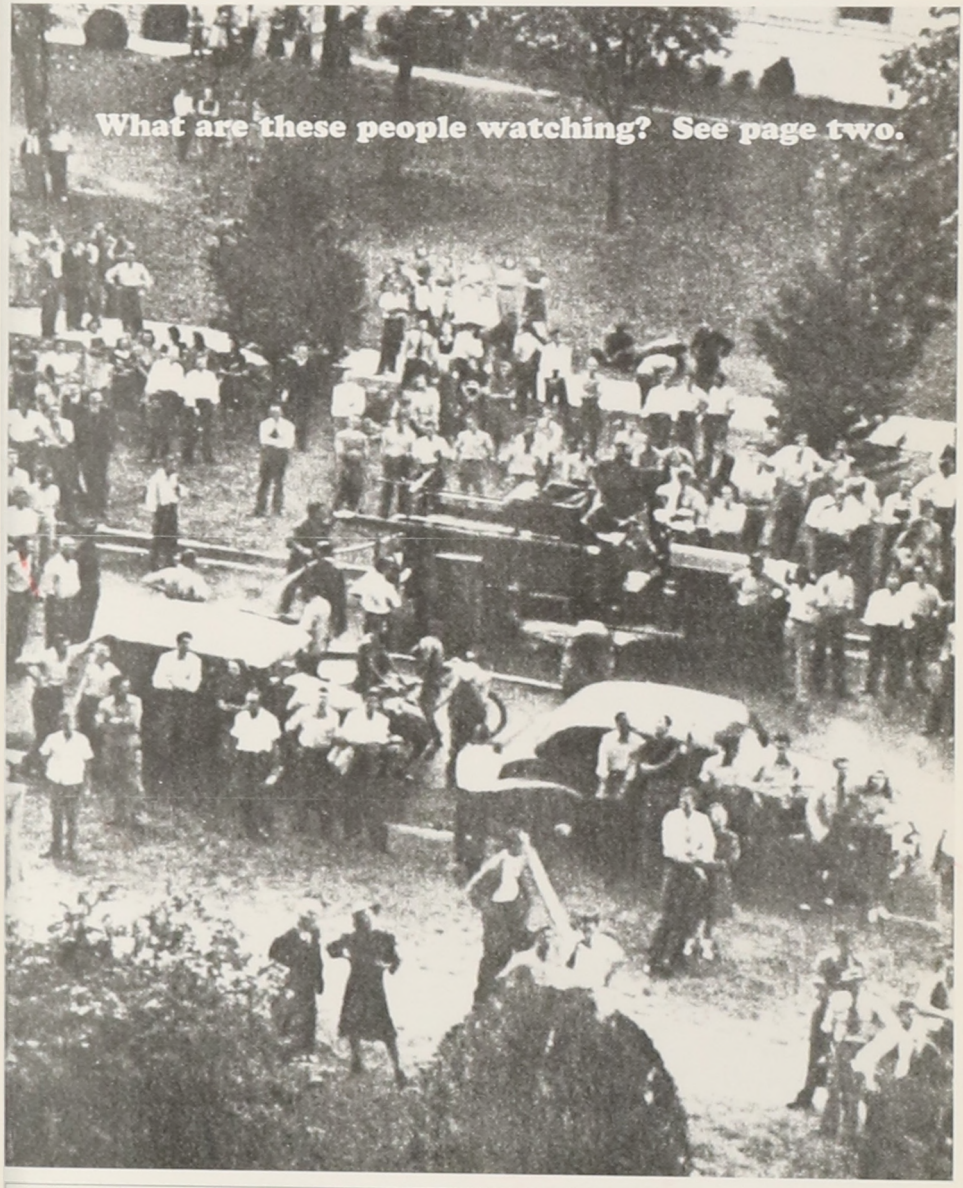
LASHBACK

erving the Past for the Future

Volume 50 May 2000 Number 2



WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Washington County Historical Society
118 East Dickson Street, Fayetteville, AR 72701

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Cover photo: To see what these people are watching, go to page two. *Photograph from page two of the* 1941 Razorback, *student yearbook of the University of Arkansas.*.

FLASHBACK

Preserving the Past for the Future

Volume 50 **May 2000** **Number 2**

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FLASHBACK is published and mailed four times a year—the first week in February, May, August, and November. Articles for *Flashback* should be submitted 60 days before the publishing date of each issue. Acceptable articles will be published in the next available issue, provided there is space.

COPY to be printed in *Flashback* may be submitted in one of several ways: 1) furnished on computer disc, preferrably in WordPerfect or Microsoft Word for either Macintosh or a PC, 2) by e-mail to the editor at <dschaefe@comp.uark.edu> or, 3) cleanly typed copy that can be optically scanned. Text copy, photos, and artwork are all assembled on a computer. We welcome letters or e-mail messages that tell us of planned articles or that inquire about the Society activities.

The Old Main Fire of 1940

How University Hall Survived

by Don E. Schaefer

Most anyone in Arkansas would recognize Old Main from a picture and know that it is the main building at the University of Arkansas and its twin towers are spotted by many a traveler approaching Fayetteville. When it was constructed in 1875 it was referred to as the "University building" and the institution was then Arkansas Industrial University. The University building was later given the name University Hall, but it was affectionally called "Old Main." Its name is now officially Old Main.

In the beginning this building housed practically everything in the entire University. A little known fact is that for many years Old Main held the distinction as the tallest building in Arkansas.

This is an aerial view of Old Main in 1964 when there was still a street behind it. ***From photo files of the author.***

But this remarkable structure almost came to an end one autumn day nearly 60 years ago. On October 25, 1940 a serious fire broke out in the attic of Old Main!

Bill Bush Recalls the Old Main Fire

In 1940 William L. "Bill" Bush, a native of Washington County, was a student at the University of Arkansas and a part-time fireman for the city of Fayetteville. In an article in the *Northwest Arkansas Times* 24 Oct 1999, Bill Bush told this story:

"It was about 3 p.m. Oct. 25, 1940. I returned from class at the University to the Fayetteville Fire Station, proclaiming that I felt like a fire was coming on.

"As one of seven UA students who lived upstairs at the old Fire Station on 20 N. Block Ave. off the north side of the Square, we slept there and went on fire calls as needed.

Black smoke was pouring from the roof of Old Main as firemen and students pulled a hose to the fire. ***From 1941 Razorback.***

"The Fayetteville Fire Department was a different department than it is today. The men were mostly volunteers who stood ready to guard Fayetteville for years including Clyde Walters, fire chief; and Edmund Wages and Walter Gregg, both fire captains. Alan Strain was the night driver along with volunteer firemen Martin Murphy, John Dunson, Frog Counts, Anson Polly, Hugh Barnes, Charley Saunders and Ivan Wages.

"As I got back to the firehouse that day, immediately,

Students are shown pulling a fire hose up a fire escape. At the right is the hose that was pulled up through an upper window. ***From 1941 Razorback.***

the city's fire phone rang giving out the call there was a fire in the attic of Old Main.

"I donned my fire-fighting clothes, caught the Chevy fire truck driven by Ed Wages, one of the fire captains, as we pulled out of the station with sirens screaming and bells ringing.

"Down Block Street to Dickson and then turning in on the street just west of Old Main. (Today this street no longer exists, as future growth of the UA has closed all access to the back of Old Main from the west.)

"The American LaFrance, a beautiful fire truck, followed us, driven by Walter Gregg, the city's other fire captain. The Chevy fire truck parked on the south side of the back steps of Old Main's rear entrance. I was dispatched up inside the building up the stairs with a rope over my shoulders long enough to reach from the upper window of the fifth floor to be let down to the ground. I must have raced up those steps three at a time to get there.

"The rope was to be used to pull up the fire hose and nozzle from the ground. By that time students were there to help pull up the hose. We had more than enough hose to take care of the fire.

"The window where the rope was let down and the hose and nozzle pulled up was in the northwest corner of the back wall of Old Main. Extra hose was pulled in near there. The new renovation makes things look different today then in the 1940s, but I still recall the exact window where the hose and nozzle were pulled into the building. There were lots of students there on the campus who joined right in helping us pull up that rope and fight the fire.

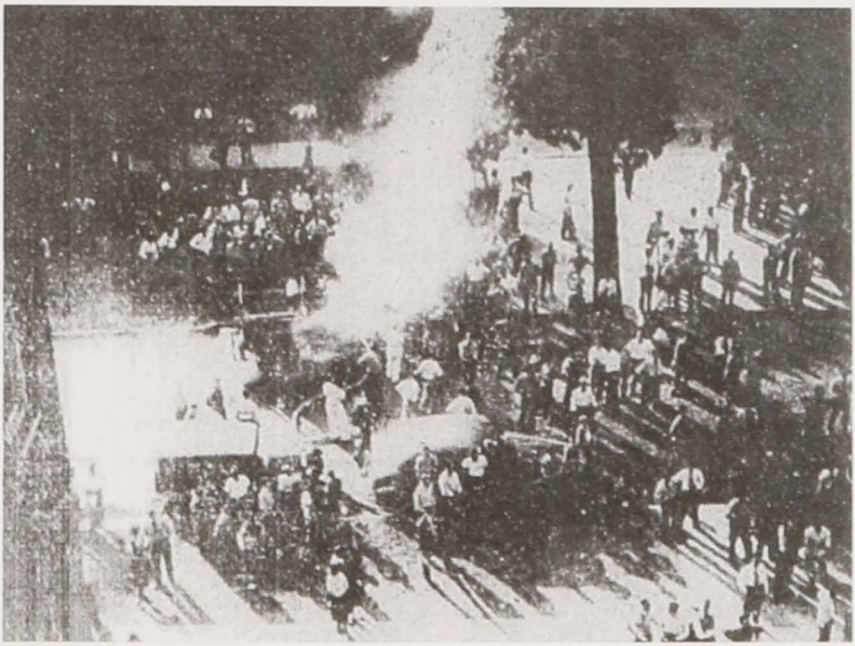
"I can tell you on the end of that hose it was hot, very hot, smoky and there is still evidence of the heat and the charring of the attic there today.

"The wooden stairway leading from the fifth floor of Old Main at the Bogle Gallery into the attic, in my opinion, was not there in 1940, but it leads to the attic where the fire was. I think we made a hole in the ceiling and by twisting the nozzle around were able to extinguish the fire.

"The heat and smoke was terrible."

One hose was used inside the top floor. This is where Bush was working. ***From 1941 Razorback.***

Pictures in the University student newspaper, the *Arkansas Traveler*, and the student yearbook, the *1941 Razorback*, show students and firemen fighting the fire both inside Old Main and on the roof. Indeed, there were two fire hoses going up from the fire trucks below, one up through the window that Bill Bush has described, and one up the outside of



This is a picture of the crowd back of Old Main watching the fire. The smoke is coming from the exhaust of the fire truck that was laboring to keep up pressure. It was taken from the roof. This photo appeared on the first page of the Oct. 29, 1940 *Arkansas Traveler*.

the building to the roof.

A student photographer evidently had complete access to the inside of the building and to the roof of Old Main during the fire.

Joe McFerran, a UA student at the time, says he saw that they were having trouble with the American LaFrance fire truck pumping enough water and that he remembers a newer fire truck coming to the rescue and delivering the water at the proper pressure.

There must have been some problem with water pressure as seen by the crowd. In the *Northwest Arkansas Times* of 26 Oct. 1940, it was said that a radio broadcast went out asking for people in Fayetteville to curtail their use of water. Fire Captain Wages was quoted as saying that "static pressure does not affect the fire fighting"

since the pumper trucks provide the pressure. He also said the fire department did not authorize the radio broadcast about use of water.

"Pardon me, but the building is on fire."

The *1941 Razorback* had this brief account on page 108 with many excellent photos of the fire:

"Big excitement came on the afternoon of October 25. A couple of art students on the fourth floor of Old Main smelled smoke. They investigated and found the building was on fire. Fayetteville firemen and students joined together in fighting the blaze while a couple of thousand students, an equal number of townspeople watched. Finally the fire was extinguished and the campus settled down. Best story growing out of the excitement: A very quiet, reserved professor broke into a classroom. Meekly, almost embarrassed, he said, 'Pardon me, but the building is on fire.'"

The *Arkansas Traveler* of 29 Oct. 1940 described some of the feeling on campus and the willingness of everyone

Faculty members talk about the fire underway. They have taken favorite chairs and books to wait out excitement. ***From 1941Razorback.***

to help with this tragedy-in-the-making:

"The cry—"Old Main's on fire!"—electrified the campus Friday afternoon shortly after 3 o'clock class bell had rung as smoke was seen pouring out of the roof at the center of the building and from the north tower. Hundreds of students watched Fayetteville firemen, University employees and students battle the blaze from the roof and from the fourth floor. Other students and University professors voluntarily began moving out books, furniture and records from all offices in the north side of the historical land mark."

Thanks Students!

On behalf of the University I wish to thank the students for their assistance in removing valuable equipment during the fire on Friday. We appreciate especially the spirit of cooperation and loyalty which prompted this action. The spirit of the student body is, after all, the surest measure of the success of any institution.

J. W. Fulbright
President.

This appeared in a front-page box in the Oct 29, 1940 *Traveler* after the Old Main fire.

The *Traveler* also stated that the blaze was discovered when a fourth floor art class felt the heat and heard the flames above.

Water was poured on the fire for two hours before it was brought under control.

Both the *Northwest Arkansas Times* of 26 Oct. 1940, and the *Arkansas Traveler* said the damage estimate, mostly caused by water, was between $10,000 and $15,000. According to T. C. Carlson, University treasurer, most of the damage was on the fourth and third floors. [This would be what is now the fifth and fourth floors. At that time the basement was not a numbered floor.] The fourth floor damage was localized in the large room formerly occupied by the General Extension service and the smaller room used as a storeroom and workshop for the art department. Third floor damage was in several places on the north wing, and rooms 304 and 305 were vacated. It was expected that all floors on

the north end and north wing would have to be refinished.

Much damage was done to a portion of the roof's supporting structure and the interior of the attic. As shown in pictures made recently by Bill Bush, many rafters and other supporting beams were replaced, but many charred ones still remain after 59 years.

Both papers quoted authorities as saying that the cause of the blaze was unknown. No evidence of defective wiring was found. Workmen on the roof earlier in the day were working in a different location than the fire, and spontaneous combustion was practically ruled because of the lack of material for that occurrence.

In a column on page two of the *Traveler*, the writer had a few light remarks about the fire:

"Among the many and varied reports as to how the fire started in Old Main come three dillies, which of course, no one believes, but which are amusing. One says that at long last one of those super-dry lectures on third floor just got away from the professor and started the blaze. Another declares that the University authorities were burning out wasp nests in the attic to rid the campus of certain stinging remarks that have been flittering around. Phew!" [I know. He *said* three dillies, but I only count two.]

Later that *Traveler* columnist gets more serious:

"In the thick of the fire fighting from start to finish

were students John Whiteside, Les Boucher, Farlow Burt, and Max Hickman, all of whom came early and stayed late until all the fun was over. They rendered real service in helping with the hose, and some ruined clothes and shoes in the very damp affair. Cracked one: 'After going through this, I know how a smoked ham must feel.'"

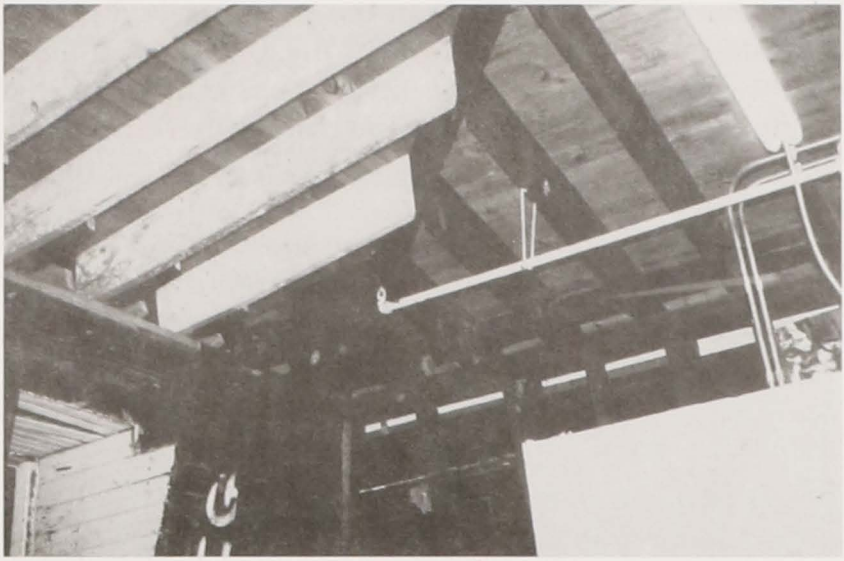
A *Traveler* editorial suggested having fire drills and placing fire instructions for students in more prominent locations, but expressed relief there were no casualties.

Much Evidence of Fire Exists Today

Back to Bill Bush's story:

"On my first trip back to the attic of Old Main since the fire, Doris Cowden, the secretary to the Dean at Fulbright College, led the way for my wife, me and my son to explore the attic.

"Up in the attic was still evidence of the fire with the darker colored walls still being wood charred by the fire. There is also the newest of repairs to the fire damage,



There are remaining charred wood rafters and replaced ones in the same roof structure as viewed from the attic. ***Photo by Bill Bush.***

made 59 years ago, which can still be seen.

"There is both damaged wood and repaired wood in service in the attic of Old Main. Some rafters have been replaced right next to the ones still black with charring by the fire. . . A copper roof helped contain a fire and a mortar mix in the attic floor contained the fire as well. . .

Work Continued After Blaze Extinguished

"We went back to the fire station for a bite to eat once the fire was out, but returned soon to begin sweeping the water out of the building. The activity went well into the night, sweeping the water down the stairs.

"I noticed by watch was missing. My brain clicked and I remembered the students who helped pull up the hose and nozzle and suspected that my watch was raked off at the windows. In those days there were canvass awnings on the windows. I concluded that my watch was caught in the loop of the awning. I checked there the next day and found my watch."

Fires Attract Crowds

Many who saw smoke pouring from Old Main were almost certain that they were going to witness the fiery destruction of another large building. This was not uncommon in the 19th and early 20th century when unsafe heating, lack of good fire fighting apparatus, or insufficient water supply were evident in far too many cities. We are thankful this was not the case here.

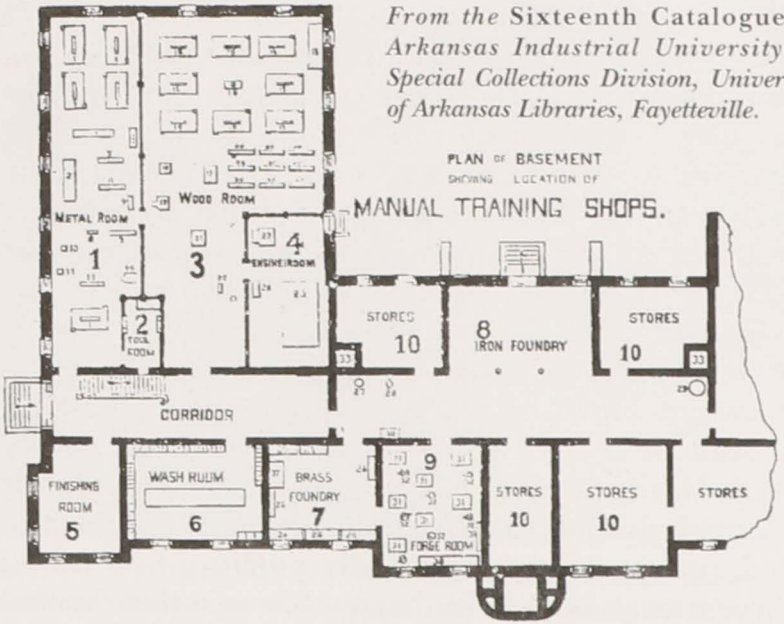
However, a letter was received by Bill Bush after his article appeared in the *Times*. It was from Henrietta Kimbrough Holcomb of Fayetteville who was an off-campus student at the UA and saw the commotion at Old Main. Her most vivid memory was a conversation with Roberta Robinson Comfort. "Roberta saw the fire from her home and came hurriedly pushing her baby (I believe it was a boy) in his buggy. She said that the main

reason she came was so that if the building burned, the child could say that he was there!"

Others were heard from after the article appeared. Included among these were Ray Trammel of Fayetteville and Lawrence Broyles of Farmington who were UA students at the time. Broyles said there was quite a turmoil after the professor's calm announcement. And Broyles also said he helped repair the fire damage.

Fire Averted In Earlier Years

Little known to many University of Arkansas historians is the extreme fire danger which existed in Old Main during some of the early years. In the *Sixteenth Catalogue* of Arkansas Industrial University (1888-89) a floor plan of the basement of Old Main appears on page 56. (See this floor plan below.) This plan and accompanying table of reference shows clearly that there is a brass foundry (7), an iron foundry (8), and a forge room (9) in the building. All of these operations produce high



From the **Sixteenth Catalogue** *of Arkansas Industrial University in Special Collections Division, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville.*

heat from fires, far greater than that produced by wood-burning stoves, a known fire hazard of the time.

This danger must have been recognized. In the spring of 1889 a new Shop Building was erected for these operations and located some distance south and west of Old Main. A few years later this Shop Building was destroyed by fire, as was its replacement structure!

As we reflect on the preservation of Old Main through many perils of the past, we are grateful that it has been most beautifully restored. We are also grateful for many modern measures taken to prevent fires in that historic structure.

And we again give a special thanks for the heroic efforts of the firemen and students who helped save Old Main from a disaster in 1940.

Bill Bush had to leave the University not long after the October 1940 fire. He entered the U.S. Army and was serving before the Pearl Harbor attack. Bush was a part of two invasions in Salerno, Italy and in Southern France. He was in eleven major battles in Europe and Korea. In 1971 he retired from the Army National Guard as a colonel. He is also a retired school teacher. He was Washington County Judge from 1953 to 1956 and at age 83 is the oldest living former county judge of Washington County. He was honored in 1996 by the Washington County Historical Society as Citizen of the Year. (See *Flashback*, Vol. 47, No. 1, Feb. 1997.)

Bill Bush during the early part of his active duty time in the Army.

Colonel Bush would like to hear from additional witnesses of the Old Main fire. Write to William L. Bush, 13854 Bush Valley Road, Lincoln, AR 72744. His telephone number is (501) 824-3847. ❖

Three Years In the Union Army

Some Time in Washington County

[Henry B. Luce was a Union soldier in a Kansas unit involved in much action in this area. He was later to have family in Washington County. This is his story of some of his experiences in the Civil War. It was submitted to *Flashback* by Frances Ann Dorsa of Springdale, a great-granddaughter of Henry Luce. See page 21 at the end of this story for some of the descendants of Henry B. Luce in Washington County.]

by Henry B. Luce

A sketch of my army life written from memory forty years after the close of the war 1861 to 1865 and is correct except as to some dates and for the benefit of any one whom it may concern. In the year of 1861, the War of the Rebellion began by pulling down the U.S. flag and the surrender of Ft. Sumter April 13, 1861. July 21st, 1861 the first battle of Bull Run was fought and the loss of the Union army was great. Also the battle of Wilson Creek in Mo. fought Aug. 10th, 1861 in which General Lyon was killed and the battle was won by the Confederates with much loss to the Union army. Much fighting along the borders of Mo. and Kans. during the years of 1861 and 1862. Men were called to their doors at night and shot down. One of my school boys had been killed at Wilson Creek. One had been killed at the battle of Lexington, Mo. One of my neighbors had been killed while at church for his outspoken loyalty by a rebel. My father barely escaped with his life from the state of Mo. to Ill.

These with love of country patriotism and other things induced me to at the age of 27 to enlist in the U.S. Army for the term of 3 Years or duration of the war. I enlisted Sept. 6, 1862 at Troy, Doniphan Co., Kans. in company I

Henry B. Luce
Photograph courtesy Frances Dorsa.

of the 13 Kans. Volunteer Infantry. John Schiling of Eiawatha, Kans. was Captain. Leaving my wife with a babe of 3 days old with her brother I went to do duty as a soldier for my country.

About Sept. 10th our ten companies went into camp at Atchison, Kans. where we were equipped with arms, tents, and clothing. We were mustered in and drilled every day for 3 weeks. Our officers were Thomas M. Bowen, Colonel; Dr. Wheeler, Lieutenant Colonel; Woodworth, Major; Badger, Adjutant; Dr. Grimes, Surgeon; and General Blunt in command of the Army of the Frontier. I enlisted as a private and promoted to corporal after 3rd day.

We rode down on a steamboat to Ft. Leavenworth and there drew our wagons and mules to transport our equipment and rations on toward the confederacy. We left Ft. Leavenworth and arrived at Ft. Scott about the 1st of October. Thence marched through southwestern Mo. passing through Lamar and Carthage, thence to Indian territory, thence to Bentonville, Ark. and on to Cane Hill where a running fight was made with the rebels and then went into camp. I was ordered by the Colonel to report for duty to Cyrus Leland, Sr. our quartermaster as an assistant clerk in his office and in the distribution of rations and clothing to the regiment, which duty I performed till about April 1st, 1863.

The Commissary Sergeant was discharged and I was promoted in his place which made my pay $22.00 per month. I was excused from all guard and parole duty. I was offered a Lieutenants commission in a colored regiment but declined it on account of the associations.

We were encamped at Cane Hill until the morning of Dec. 7th when in the night Confederate General Hindman tried to get in the rear of General Blunt's army but met General Heron's army near Prairie Grove and the battle of Prairie Grove was begun. General Blunt being apprised of the fact moved his command and in conjunction with General Heron so whipped the enemy. They were either compelled in to fight next day or retreat so they chose the latter. The loss my regiment were 7 killed and number wounded. I was not in the battle but was looking after the commissary store and with the train from Cane Hill to Rhea's Mill where the train was held in readiness to retreat if the Union army was defeated. General Hindman retreated which left the Union army in possession of the battlefield.

The quartermaster heard his son Cyrus was wounded and asked me to take a horse and go with him to the battlefield to find him. It was then quite dark as we rode out to the edge of the woods where a fire was burning and listened to General Hindman's army on the retreat probably 150 yards distant. Not knowing what army, we hesitated a few minutes when a man came up to us with a gun and says hello boys. The quartermaster says, "What regiment?" He says, "Colonel Caldwells of Mo." The quartermaster ordered him to surrender which he did and gave up his gun. Then the Johnies fired a volley at us which did not hit us so we got out safely. Not thinking it advisable to go any further we returned to camp.

We got orders to march to Fayetteville, Ark., which we did next day. In a day or so we got orders to march back to Cane Hill where we stayed until after Christmas.

While there the troops went down to Van Buren, Ark. burned two steamboats loaded with corn, captured a quantity of sugar, and commissaries with some prisoners and then returned. Our regiment was ordered to Springfield, Mo. where we arrived on New Year's day 1863 and stayed there in camp until the latter part of April being inactive.

Many of our regiment died in the hospital of yellow jaundice. A man by the name Thomas Cummings of my company started to go home on furlough and got out a few miles and was killed by bushwhackers. In May, our regiment was ordered to Ft. Scott, Kans. where most of the men got furloughs and went home for 30 days to visit their families. Many who had bid them good-bye in September never returned again for they had given up their lives for their country.

Returning to Ft. Scott about July 1st we lay in camp 2 weeks, then marched to Ft. Gibson, Indian territory. We stayed there 2 weeks while General Blunt was arranging his army for a raid into the Choctaw Indian country who were nearly all rebels. We started about the 20th of August with 2 regiments of Cherokee and Creek Indians, the 6th and 14th Kansas Cavalry and the 2nd Colorado Cavalry and a field battery to Honey Springs and routed General Shelly driving him out of the country. We marched back to Webers Falls and were in camp there 3 weeks on the Arkansas River where we got plenty of fish. Then we marched to Scullyville, Choctaw Nation and remained a month and from there to Van Buren, Ark. where we went into winter quarters. Colonel Bowen commanding and Cyrus Leland Post quartermaster. We had good quarters in the houses for offices, floors to sleep on, fires and conveniences for during the winter.

In the spring General Banks of New Orleans was ordered to act in conjunction with General Steele at Little Rock, Ark. and make an expedition up Red River

and drive General Kirby Smith out and take possession of the country to the south and west. General Thayer was ordered to organize a division at Fort Smith to march to the help of General Steele, all to start at the same time which would have been a good move if it had been carried out as arranged. My regiment did not go but a detail of about 10 men was made to go. Our quartermaster was to act as Brigade quartermaster and I went with him. General Steele had several skirmishes before we came up to him at Prairie D. Hahn where a battle was in progress. We lay all night under the loud thundering of cannon and guns. In the morning we marched out in line of battle but the enemy was gone so then we marched on to Camden unmolested.

The army was reorganized and the men detailed from my regiment were relieved and ordered to go back with a train then going back to Pine Bluff, Ark. for supplies. This was the 24th day of April and it was captured the next day by the Rebels at Marks Mills, Ark.

About 1000 men, myself with them, 180 wagons and 1000 mules and horses were taken. A more particular account of this battle will be found in a book published by Colonel A.J.H. Duganne entitled Camps and Prisons at Pages 394 to 397 which I have in my possession.

General Banks being in a hurry to get all the glory started up Red River before General Steele could get there, was severely repulsed and driven back with great loss. That let the whole of rebel General Price's army to fight General Steele's and he had to retreat and fight his way to Little Rock. After one man had given up and fully surrendered, I saw him shot down by a rebel. After the battle we were marched all day and night and next day without anything to eat.

About 4 o'clock that day a guard says to me he would treat prisoners as he would like to be treated if he was a prisoner. I says I think this is not very fair to not give us

any thing to eat. He said, "I'll get you something." So he left and about dark came back with a large loaf of corn bread which I had decided to divide with my messmates. That satisfied our hunger for awhile. He also gave me a half of a blanket. I have never met him since (even as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren ye have unto me.) I can never forget that man. His home was near Lexington, Mo. but before this time, no doubt, he has gone to his reward. A number of the men were begging ears of corn to eat. We were marched to Camden and placed in a cotton shed. About 1000 taken from the shed the next afternoon were ordered to fall in line around the outer side of it where we were searched. The captain and guards came in and began the search. The captain searched me the first one and took my pocket book and other things and put them in his pocket. I said, "Captain, what are you going to do with them?" He said, "you will get them all back." Then the major came in and he said he wanted everything taken from these men brought here and put in a pile. This order was obeyed. There was a sack full of pocket knives, combs and money and 1 pair of brass knucks and many other things a soldier would likely carry about him. After the major had gone out I went to the captain and told him he said he would give me my things back which he did, not even looking into my pocket book. It contained about $25.00. The things they took from the other men were never returned to them. The next day we were searched again. The one that searched me took my watch out of my pocket and held on to the chain. I said, "You going to take it?" He said, "That is our orders." I told him it will do you no good, your officers will take it from you. So as the soldiers crowded up I held on and he let go and I saved everything I had. Afterward I sold my watch to a Johnnie for $80.00 confederate money. The next day we started for Camp Ford

near Tyler, Texas where there was a rebel prison. It was about 10 acres enclosed with posts set up close together about 6 ft. high above ground. Outside of it a soldier guarded it all the time.

On the march there, one of the prisoners refused to march and the guards put a rope around his neck and tied the other end to the horses saddle and led him around that way for two days. The boys said he was insane anyhow. The next day they killed him and our boys dug him a grave on the banks of Red River and buried him. Alone and unknown. There were prisoners there that belonged to my regiment who had been there about 4 months. They had built a house of logs and they took me in with them so that I was provided with shelter. However the prisoners, about 3000 of them, that went there about the same time I did had no shelter from the sun, rain or cold for some months after.

Timber was a plenty around the prison but the prisoners were not allowed to go out and get it. In the fall they were allowed to go out and get in timber and build quarters for winter. Our rations were corn meal and beef in small quantities. Many of the men died with scurvy, diarrhea, starvation and exposure. Some lost all hope, grew despondent and soon died. Some were killed by the guards for a trifling offense or no cause whatever. 3 to 7 was about the daily number of deaths.

It was about 3 months before I got word from home that my wife knew where I was. I had been reported killed which gave great uneasiness to my wife and friends. It would be too long to enter into details telling of the happenings and all that took place in the stockade while I was there. I will say by the mercies of God I lived through it and was spared to return home to my loved ones again. About the 20th of February, I with 600 others were paroled and marched to Shreveport, La. and were transported on steamboats down Red River to the

Mississippi River where we beheld the stars and stripes which never looked quite so beautiful before. We were taken on board of U.S. transports to New Orleans, La.

I was captured on the 25th day of April, 1864 and exchanged the 25th day of February, 1865, having been in the care of the johnnies an even 10 months. We came up the Mississippi River to Cairo, Ill. and was furloughed to go home for 30 days. I returned to my regiment at Little Rock, Ark. and soon an order was issued by the Adjutant General to muster out all of the paroled prisoners of war. I returned to Leavenworth, Kans. and was mustered out the 22nd day of May, 1865 having been in the service of my army life might be mentioned which might be of interest to the reader but I have told the main facts so let it suffice.

This was taken from the original writing of Henry B. Luce.

Henry B. Luce (born 10 Dec 1835 in Success, N.Y., died 12 Aug 1906 in Galatia, Kansas), married Earnistine A. Rogers (born 19 Oct 1836, died 12 Feb 1904). They had seven children.

A daughter, Permelia Ann Luce (born 16 Dec 1868, died 20 Nov 1952), married Francis Henry Shelton (born 15 May 1858, died 14 Mar 1938).

Their daughter, Lavilla Ferne Shelton (born 5 Oct 1903, died 1 Jun 1988), married Shelby Ray Ford (born 23 Jul 1902, died 27 Oct 1968) on 5 Oct 1930.

Their daughter, Frances Ann Ford (born 4 Apr 1933), married Grover Otho Lindley (born 4 Apr 1931, died 17 Mar 1997). They had three children:

Gary Grover Lindley of Springfield, Mo.
Shelby Stephen Lindley of Prairie Grove, Ark.
Kimberly Ann Lindley of Fayetteville, Ark.

Frances Ford Lindley married Joseph Dorsa 13 Feb 1971. ❖

The Mackey and Dill Families and the Civil War

by John Dill

Although Arkansas took the southern position during the Civil War, many of the residents of northwest Arkansas remained loyal to the Union. Here is a look at the involvement of the members of two of those families with Washington County roots. It is pieced together from scattered bits of information and provides only a sketchy outline. Some of these family members are well documented in Union service and pension records. Others are almost entirely missing. As this was being researched one individual, in particular, surfaced several times and has perhaps become somewhat of a central figure in this story. He is the mysterious Union soldier, Thomas B. Mackey. (Mackey is only one of the many variations of spelling encountered during this research, it is the "default" spelling used in this article.)

The Mackey family first appeared in a Washington County, Arkansas land entry on 4 Mar 1836. David McKay entered 40 acres on Fly Creek in Section 28, Township 14. His closest neighbor was probably the William Oliver who entered an adjoining 40 acres on the same day. David's past is unknown. It may be that he is the David Mckay who is recorded on White County, Tenn. tax records in 1813. It is also possible that there is some connection with the David McKay who owned land in Greenville, S.C. in the 1780s. The associated Dill and Rutledge families were in both of those areas during those time periods. Tax and census records indicate that David died soon after his Washington County purchase. Beginning in 1837 Rachel Mackey, his widow, paid the taxes on this 40 acres of land.

Rachel is the head of the Mackey household on the

1840 census. Within a few years she married Charles Dill. Charles is enumerated with his father's (Elijah Dill) family on the 1840 census. This marriage took place before Washington County began to officially record marriages in 1845. We know about it from a small Dill history written in 1922 by Charles Dill's niece, Ida Dill. She recorded that "Charley (Dill) married widow Mackey," but gave no dates. Charles Dill and Rachel Mackey both joined the Cane Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church in 1839.

Charles and Rachel Dill, along with their two daughters Unicy and Paulina E., are listed on the 1850 census. This record indicates that Rachel was about thirteen years older than Charles. The next census entry (Washington Co., Cove Creek #5) appears to be a complete list of David and Rachel Mackey's children. Those listed are Thomas (26 Tenn.), Hugh (25 Tenn.), George (24 Tenn.), Margaret (22 Tenn.), David (18 Ill.), James (16 Ark.), Andrew (14 Ark.) and Abram (12 Ark.). This is a good example of a "fortunate mistake" in the census records. The information must have been taken "second hand." Hugh had married Jane Rutledge on 21 Dec. 1844 in Barry County, Mo. and can also be found listed in Newton County, Mo. on the 1850 census. Other records show that Thomas, George, and David were all either in California, or on their way there, in 1850 as part of the "gold rush" (*Flashback* Jan. 1964 p. 11-12 and Aug. 1968, p. 35-36).

In the 1850s, now back from the "gold rush," Thomas B. Mackey married Elizabeth C. Roberts on 11 Aug 1853, and George W. Mackey married Charlotte Vance on 8 May 1853. Margaret and David have not been located in any other records. There is a possible record of James which will be mentioned later. Andrew J. Mackey married Paulina Baxter on 22 Mar 1855 and she died in 1858 at Granby, Mo. Andrew's second marriage was to

Andrew Mackey and his second wife, Soloma Jane Robinson, in the center; on either side—daughters Lenna and Lenora.

Soloma Jane Robinson on 22 Jan 1862 before his Union service. Abram S. Mackey married Amanda Sinkler on 25 Oct 1862. This marriage took place in T.B. Mackey's home. After Abrim's death in the Civil War she married Washington Hendricks. All these marriages were in Washington Co., Ark. The only other record from the 1850s shows that James and Andrew had guardians appointed in 1852. The reason for this is unknown.

The 1860 census finds Hugh and his family are now living in Washington County. They are next to Charles and Rachel Dill, who are still living on the old Mackey homestead but are now listed in Mountain township. Thomas (#96 Cane Hill) and George Mackey (#24 Cane Hill), and Charles Dill's brother-in-law Shelton Hern (#25 Cane Hill) are all to the north on Blair's Creek, not far from Charles Dill's father, Elijah Dill.

Union service by descendants of David Mackey

1. Thomas Mackey - covered below

2. Hugh Mackey - enrolled in Company D, 1st Arkansas Infantry on 1 Sep 1863. He is officially listed as deserted in late 1863 (one source says Feb 1864). In a pension application, a daughter states that he was sent home sick and died in

the winter of 1863/64 in Crawford County, Ark.

3. George Mackey - also mentioned below. No official record of service has ever been found. The account in *Flashback* of his "gold rush" trip states that he had worn a "peg-leg" since childhood. This probably prevented him from actively serving in a first line unit.

4. Andrew J. Mackey - enrolled in Company A, 1st Arkansas Cavalry on 27 Nov 1862 and served through the War.

5. Abram S. Mackey - enrolled in Company A, 1st Arkansas Cavalry on 23 Nov 1862 and died of injuries suffered in the Battle of Prairie Grove. He died around 18 Jan 1863 at Fayetteville and is probably buried in an unidentified grave in the Fayetteville National Cemetery.

Hugh Mackey's son, John Wesley Mackey, also enrolled in Company D, 1st Arkansas Infantry. He enrolled 1 Oct 1863 and served through the War.

Elijah Dill had moved into the Blair's Creek area of Washington County by the mid 1830s, from White County, Tenn. He raised a family of five sons and five daughters there. One son, Archibald, moved to Texas in the 1840s with his father-in-law, William Kimes. Elijah's other four sons and at least two of his sons-in-law served in some capacity in the Union Army. No "official" record of military service has ever been located for Charles or Benjamin Dill. Charles is known to have survived the War but has not been found in records after 1867. Just after the War both of Charles and Rachel Dill's daughters married veterans of Company A, 1st Arkansas Cavalry. Paulina Dill married Seaborn Caughman on 27 Apr 1865 and Unicy Dill married James Council on 8 Sep 1865. Benjamin Dill lived in Benton County after the War and has numerous living descendants, many of whom have

Seaborn Caughman

traditions that Benjamin fought on the Union side in the Battle of Prairie Grove and other engagements. Benjamin was married three times, the first being to Charlotte Story on 21 Apr 1853 in Washington County.

Elijah Dill's other two sons, John and Francis, and his son-in-law, Joseph Williams, all moved to Scott County, Ark. in 1860. Francis soon returned to Washington County and the rest were caught up in the War from Scott County.

The first indication of any Union involvement by members of the Dill and Mackey families can be found in the August 1953 *Flashback* which printed what was believed to be a roster of Co. D, 1st Arkansas Cavalry USA. The article states that "This company of 182 men was raised by G.W.M. Reed, probably late in 1861, for the Federal service." There is more to this than first meets the eye. Very few of those listed have been located in any other records of the 1st Cavalry or any other Union regiment. The 1861 date seems improbable. T. B.

The author believes the middle row, left to right, are Francis Dill, Benjamin Dill (positive), Elizabeth Dill Williams Mangrum, Charles Dill, and John Dill. These are five of Elijah Dill's ten children.

Mackey is listed as the Captain. Three privates listed are of special interest here. They are C. Dill, B. Dill, and Shelt. Heron. C. and B. Dill are almost certainly Elijah's sons, Charles and Benjamin Dill.

Union service by descendants and sons-in-law of Elijah Dill

1. Charles Dill - only known record is "Company D" roster given above.

2. Benjamin R. Dill - only known record is roster. Descendants say he served in the Union Army throughout the War.

3. John Sutton Dill - enrolled in Company D, 1st Arkansas Infantry on 1 Sep 1863 and served until discharged on disability late in the War. John married his first wife, Elizabeth (Rutledge) Gallion on 27 Mar 1844 in Newton County, Mo. She died 3 Nov 1856 and he married her youngest sister, Mary Rutledge, on 15 Oct 1857. They were sisters of Hugh Mackey's wife, Jane Rutledge.

4. Francis Marion Dill - enrolled in Company D, 1st Arkansas Cavalry on 2 Jul 1862 and served through the War. Francis' first wife was Nancy Gallion who died in 1860 in Scott County. She was a step-daughter of his brother, John. On 4 Oct 1864 Francis married Louisa (Tollett) Crawford, the widow of Pinkney Crawford. Andrew J. Mackey later provided Francis with a deposition which states that this marriage took place in the house in Fayetteville where Andrew was living at that time. Reuben North, the Chaplain of the First Arkansas Cavalry, performed the ceremony.

5. Shelton Hern - listed on the "Company D" roster referred to above. He married Elijah Dill's daughter, Mary, on 11 May 1853. In 1890 his widow filed a pension application based on service with Company D, 1st Arkansas Cavalry which was denied. This application was later "amended" to indicate that in about 1864 Shelton served as the head wagonmaster for a Union supply train.

6. Joseph Williams - enrolled in Company D, 1st Arkansas Infantry on 1 Oct 1863 and died at Waldron, Arkansas shortly afterward. After the War his body is believed to have been moved to the National Cemetery in Fort Smith, Ark. He mar-

ried Elijah Dill's daughter, Elizabeth, in the late 1840s in Newton County, Mo. Joseph had at least two brothers who also served on the Union side. John S. Williams served in Company D, 1st Arkansas Infantry and Thomas B. Williams served in Company H, 6th Kansas Cavalry.

John Dill's two oldest sons, William and James Wesley Dill served with their father in Company D, 1st Arkansas Infantry. Both enrolled 1 Sep. 1863. John Dill's step-son, Benjamin T. Gallion, enrolled in Company D, 1st Arkansas Infantry on 1 Oct 1863 and served through the War.

William C. Dill (left) and James Wesley Dill, great-grandfather of the author. These two brothers were twins.

The enrollment dates of John Dill, Hugh Mackey and the others from west central Arkansas are interesting. They all enlisted shortly after the Battle of Devil's Backbone was fought near Greenwood in Sebastian County, Ark. Sources say the Confederate forces were holding a large number of men of neutral or Union persuasion from that area, who were to be conscripted into the Confederate Army. These men broke and ran to the Union side during that battle and then applied to join the Union Army. Many enlisted that same day at Jenny Lind and most ended up

in the 1st Arkansas Infantry.

One additional fact emerged from a study of the 1st Arkansas Infantry records. Almost to a man, these soldiers were hospitalized for several months at the end of 1863. Many died or were discharged at that time. The apparent cause, as given in some of the records, was a bad vaccine the men were given after enlistment. This may have contributed to the deaths of Hugh Mackey and Joseph Williams soon afterward.

CSA involvement of family members

It is possible that one or more members of the Dill and Mackey families supported the Confederate cause. Minutes of Methodist Conferences 1893-96, page 96, Emory University Theological Library, gives this information: James Mackey was born in Washington County, Arkansas on 8 Mar 1838. He married Liz Taylor on 20 May 1860. He was a chaplain in the CSA and died in 1879. It is unknown if this James is the missing brother from this Mackey family. Andrew J. Mackey, possibly a brother of this James, was a Methodist minister from Washington County after the War.

The picture is more clear with Archibald Dill, brother of Charles. Archibald had lived in Texas for many years and served in a CSA "homeguard" there. He even named a son, born during the War, Jefferson Davis Dill.

All the soldiers with "recognized" service (in this case an enrolled date) can be tracked during and after the War using service and pension records from the National Archives. It is a very different matter to locate or identify the older soldiers who apparently were serving in militia or "homeguard" units. There are almost no known records of their service. Research using Union pension records and the information given below makes it appear that the "Roster of Company D" which was quoted earlier in this article is possibly the roster of

the Company D, Union Militia, one of the three Union "homeguard" companies from Washington County.

* Captain Thomas B. Mackey, 1st Arkansas Cavalry - "deserted absent without leave since Sept 7, 1863" (Roll 59, Misc. Abstracts, Micro 399, 1st Arkansas Cavalry - National Archives). A search of records from the National Archives has turned up no other reference to a Thomas Mackey serving in the 1st Arkansas Cavalry. This must have been an administrative problem connected with Thomas leaving Company A to join the newly organized Union Militia at Fayetteville.

* Report of the Adjutant General of Arkansas, 1867 gives this information: "In the autumn of 1863, in accordance with orders from Major General Schofield, then commanding the department of the Missouri, several companies of Union men were organized in northwestern Arkansas, the government issuing arms and ammunition, and when on active service furnishing them with subsistence. These companies were commanded as follows: In Washington county by Captains Bracken Lewis and Mackey. . . There was also a very efficient company organized in West Fork township. . . Captains Lewis and Mackey's companies took part in the defense of Fayetteville on the 3d of November, 1864, and all these organizations rendered valuable aid to the government, for which they have received no compensation."

* *Flashback* (May 1961 p. 23-24) published a letter written by John Buchanan on 12 Jan 1864 to the commander of the Union army at Fayetteville. "Last week, Capt. Thos. Mackey, Mr. George Mackey, Shelton Herron, and others whose names I do not recollect, came to my house and took off two mules, two mares, and one horse."

* The genealogy department of the Fayetteville library holds a letter (published in *Flashback*, Jan. 1957 p. 36) written by Fount Richardson in 1953 which tells a Civil

War story about George Mackey. Briefly this is the story of how George repaid Jim McCulloch for saving his life on the California gold rush (1849) by aiding him in eluding capture when Jim was in the Confederate army and George serving "with the Feds."

The actions of Thomas Mackey and the other militia soldiers may have greatly influenced the history of northwestern Arkansas during the War and yet he and his comrades are almost completely unknown. Thomas died

An important and often overlooked source of family names for Cane Hill, Washington County, Arkansas in the late 1830s is an article which was published in the August 1957 *Flashback* about the Campbell and Pittman (store) Ledger of 1837. This ledger is a gold mine of names of early settlers. Elijah Dill's two oldest sons, Archibald and Charles are named as is John Hearn, the father of Shelton Hern. Unfortunately none of the Mackeys apparently had credit with that store.

The article ended with this note. "We have tried, without success to identify..." and goes on to name eight families from the ledger. One of those named is William Kimes, the early settler who became Archibald Dill's father-in-law. Two others named are John and Thomas Rutledge. They are brothers of Elizabeth (Rutledge) Williams, the wife of Luke Williams and the father of Joseph, Thomas, and John Williams who were mentioned as Union soldiers. These Rutledges were siblings of Benjamin Rutledge who was killed in an 1835 accident in Jackson County, Tennessee. Benjamin was the father of the wives of Hugh Mackey and John Dill. One other early settler also tied into this family. Stephen D. Sutton was married to another of these Rutledges, Nancy Rutledge. Stephen's mother, Elizabeth, and Elijah Dill were siblings. By the early 1840s these Rutledge families had all moved to Newton County, Missouri where they remained.

by July 1865. His brother George was the administrator of his estate but that record gives no indication of what had happened to Thomas. Five years of research have turned up no further trace of either Thomas or George, or of any descendants. In every record Thomas is referred to by the rank of Captain, first in the 1st Arkansas Cavalry and later in a Washington County Arkansas Militia. One final record makes it obvious that the victorious northern side considered him to be a soldier and officer.

Thomas Benton Mckay, Capt Ark, is buried in Section 5, grave 356 of the National Cemetery at Fayetteville. His wife is buried next to him. The wording of his marker is interesting. It identifies him as a Captain from Arkansas, but gives no unit.

The primary sources of information on these families are various Union Army records, especially Union pension applications from the National Archives. In most cases, someone at least filed for a pension on these soldiers. Documents in those files provided proof of most of the family relationships given above and in a few cases provided considerable additional information.

The author is a descendant of John Sutton Dill's son, James Wesley Dill. Wesley and his twin brother, William, were 17 when they enlisted. Many years later, curious descendants asked Wesley why they had joined the Union Army and were only told "because of Elijah." There is a family tradition that Elijah was murdered at or near his home on Blair's Creek (Greasy Valley) because of his well known Union sentiment and the active involvement of his sons and neighbors in the Union cause. This entire subject is still being researched. The author welcomes contact from anyone with questions or information on this subject.

This article was researched and written by John Dill, 7011 Johnson Road, Huntington, AR 72940, e-mail address - <johndill@ipa.net>. He welcomes information or inquiries from those interested in these families. ❖

TREPHONIA ADELINE DYER
1844 - 1915

by Forrest Dutton Poorman

Following the migration trails of the early 1820s, did our ancestors have more than a game trail to guide them? What kind of paths did they use when they left North Carolina for Tennessee? Unfortunately we have no family journal to tell us the story.

Our Arkansas Dyers, their ancestors traced back to England, were living in Wilkes County, North Carolina. When Caleb Dyer died in 1821, his wife, Rebecca Howard, moved her family of nine children and seven grandchildren to Monroe County, Tennessee.

The progenitor of the Washington County Dyers, Elisha, was born in North Carolina in 1800. He had married Polly Townsley 25 March 1824. Their first child, James Menoah, born January 1825 died in infancy, as did Rebecca Caroline, born 21 August 1828. So they were laid to rest in Tennessee. Joel Sater was born in 1826 and the Dyer Family must have felt their prayers were answered when Nancy Emily, born 1829 was also a survivor.

In 1831-1832, Rebecca, her children and grandchildren followed her eldest son, Benjamin and his family, to Crawford County, Arkansas. On this trek, we know the family was divided into two groups, one took the river route on flatboats and the other went overland, herding their stock. An account of this remarkable woman and her family was published in *Flashback*, Vol.41 No.4, Nov. 1991. Hardly had the family established themselves in the new land, when daughter Betsy died. She left two children and her husband William Mooney. Elisha and Polly lost Mary Margaret, an infant born February 1832. In 1834, Benjamin and mother Rebecca Howard were buried in Arkansas soil.

It was at this time, Elisha, with his family, his brother Joel and sisters, Nancy Emily, Mary Louanna, and Rebecca Mira decided to continue the migration to northwest Arkansas. It would be interesting to know how these young Dyers traveled northward to their new home. Were there wagon roads from Fort Smith to Prairie Grove, to Fayetteville or even to Hubbard? Why had they chosen Hubbard, a village located in Mountain Township? The area consisted of low thickly wooded hills with Sulphur Creek traveling through a beautiful wide valley. Elisha planned to farm and immediately began to buy acreage.

One can only conjecture about the Dyer home and life in this near virgin territory. The first home had to be a log cabin. The frontier kitchen would have been the center of all activities. Joel Sater, who was nine years old and Nancy Emily, now six, surely were excited at the prospect of having a new member of the family. Francis Marion was born 13 November 1835. Benjamin Franklin did not survive his birth 24 December 1837. Christmas that year could not have been very cheerful. The Dyer Cemetery, on a small hill facing the lovely valley, had four sandstone markers for these infants. These stones cannot be identified today.

Apparently Polly was enjoying good health and improved living conditions, for William Perry born 30 March 1842 and Trephonia Adeline on 7 July 1844 were to live long productive lives.

Trephonia was a four-year-old when her only living sister, Nancy Emily, married recent widower, Tandy Key Kidd. Nancy immediately had the responsibility of caring for five step-children. Trephonia must have turned to her brother, William Perry, for companionship because he was only two years older. Undoubtedly, she was busy learning the skills required of frontier children. Early maps indicate there was a school just south of the

village of Hubbard. There we assume Trephonia and her brothers learned their lessons. How often could Polly and her young daughter put aside farm duties and go visit Nancy and all the Kidd children?

It is easy to imagine the turmoil that occurred when Polly, beloved mother, died on 6 June 1860. Her grave marker, a large stone, reads 58 years and 7 days. This is easily read today in the Dyer Family Cemetery. Trephonia was 16 and probably became the substitute mother for the family. Two of her brothers and her father were the only ones living in the family home. They did have the help of blacks with the domestic work and with the farming.

The Civil War was rapidly approaching northwest Arkansas. Many accounts have been written about the suffering of the women and children that were left to manage while the men joined the armies. Trephonia Adeline "Addie" had an exciting part in the events—one that gave her satisfaction throughout her life and now gives her descendants the same feeling of pride. In 1861.. "Addie," as she was called, was seventeen. It is possible her brother, Joel Sater, served in Co. B, 1st Stirman's Battalion. Frances Marion had enlisted in Co. H, 15th Northwest Arkansas Infantry and William Perry served in Co. K, 34th Arkansas Infantry. Her father, Elisha, seemed to be serving the Cause in some way that took him away from the home. Just how and when Addie became a scout for the South in and around Fayetteville has been forgotten. Perhaps her part was unofficial, but the story of her exploits have remained with each generation of the Dyer family.

During the retreat from Fayetteville toward Prairie Grove, the Confederate flag carrier was shot and fell from his horse. Trephonia rode her little black and white pony to the spot and grabbed up the flag. She was able to escape into the surrounding forest and saved the

flag from the enemy.

Stories passed by word of mouth, from generation to generation, can gain in detail and can lose significant details. This story, which my older sister told me, gives only the simplest details - I wish we could enhance the tale.

Hogeye, a village just a few miles east of Hubbard, played a role in the Civil War. It was a stop for the earlier stage coaches as they traveled on the Old Wire Road. From the diary of Major John Henry Brown CSA, published in *Flashback* Vol.12, No. 1, Mar. 1962, the major reported that on February 20, he went from Fayetteville to Hogeye and found many Confederate soldiers on the road. He wrote that on Feb. 21, 1862 Gen. McCulloch, after having stores burned, went to Hogeye. His entry on March 5 reported that 39 Federal soldiers and eight mule wagons were captured on Telegraph (Wire) Road.

General McCulloch was killed March 7 at the Battle of Pea Ridge. Major Brown led the military escort, formed immediately, to take the general to his home in Texas. The diary entry of March 9, 1862 stated, "Down on Hale's on Lee's Creek. Sent corpse on in the night, having telegraphed Pearce and Clark from Hogeye."

Trephonia's obituary, which appeared in the *Prairie Grove Herald*, told of Aunt Addie, "who was bereft of a mother's care and love when a mere child and during the war when her father and brothers were defending their rights and their home, she was left in the care of an old negro mammy, and these two spent lonely hours together."

Francis Marion, Trephonia's brother, became very ill while with the army in Camp Priceville, Mississippi. In July of 1862, he received a certificate of disability. He was very weak and had to make the trip home on his own. By the time he reached Hubbard, he needed all the loving care Trephonia and the old mammy could

give to restore him to good health. About this time, young Addie joined the Methodist Church, South and spent over a half a century serving Christ.

The area of Mountain Township did not receive the cruel acts of war that the Cane Hill Township endured. When Nancy E. Kidd, her older sister, lost her husband and most of her possessions and when her home and mills were burned, she had to turn to her father and the old family home in Hubbard. She had with her Cornelius, Laura Adeline and Martha Clintonia Kidd. Trephonia must have welcomed the companionship of her sister and the young relatives.

Elisha's name appeared on the 1866 tax record, listing him as a "hotel keeper." It is assumed this hotel was in Fayetteville, however, no record has been found to explain how long he was the owner.

It was about 1853, that the John P. A. Parks family migrated to Mountain Township and bought a 400-acre farm from Tandy Key Kidd. John and Mary Ann were to have their 14th child after they arrived in Arkansas. One of their sons, John Oscar Parks, and Trephonia were married 11 November 1868. The young couple were to have one daughter, Ida Lee, who was born 27 September 1870.

Little is known about the young Parks family. John O. had graduated from the University of Arkansas. He was a captain in the Confederate Army. In the 1870 census, they were living in Mountain Township. He ran a store in Hogeye. They were to witness Trephonia's dear niece, Laura Kidd, marry John's brother Houston M. Parks in 1874. In 1877, John O. pleaded guilty to a simple assault charge and was fined $25.00. They apparently moved to Prairie Grove, for in the *Centennial History Prairie Grove, Arkansas 1888-1988*, their lovely home on Garrison Street is mentioned. According to the 28 June 1883 issue of the *Fayetteville Democrat*, "Col. John O. Parks, of Prairie Grove, spent a couple of days in the City last week, visit-

ing his host of friends here. Col. John O. is salesman in the store of Neilly Kidd (Cornelius), and he is one of the best business men in the County." John was selected to represent Prairie Grove at a temperance meeting to be held 24 February 1888.

A series of tragedies began to come to the Dyer-Parks-Kidd families. Houston Parks died 18 September 1882, leaving Laura Adeline Kidd a widow. Trephonia's father, Elisha Dyer, died 15 February 1889. The greatest blow came when Trephonia's own husband, John Oscar Parks, died 14 April 1889. He was buried in the Prairie Grove Cemetery.

Happiness returned to Trephonia when her only child, Ida Lee, married John E. Rogers in 1889. Trephonia was to know the joy of two grandchildren, John O. Parks Rogers and Rica (Fredrica) Parks.

In 1888, Prairie Grove welcomed its fifth doctor, Dr. William Washington Mahan, a surgeon who had practiced in Mulberry, Arkansas. He helped Dr. McCormick incorporate the town of Prairie Grove by writing a petition on a piece of notebook paper and sending it to the county judge. This bit of history was published in the *Centennial History Prairie Grove, Arkansas 1888-1988.*

Dr. Mahan had been a widower for less than a year when he proposed to Trephonia. They were married 23 December 1890. He too, had been married before. His first wife, Elizabeth Sinquefield, had five children before her death 29 June 1876. She was buried in the Dugan Cemetery, north of Mulberry, Ark. His second wife, Fannie, presented him with five children, one dying in infancy. She died 14 January 1890 and was buried in the Prairie Grove Cemetery.

The experience of mothering nine children, whose ages ranged from three years to 24 years, must have been a tremendous task for Trephonia. Her friends said the children's own mother could not have done more for

them than she. They also described Trephonia as a good, kind, modest, gentle, unassuming Christian woman—one whom everyone loved.

The marriage was to last only six years, for on 28 February 1896 William died. He was buried next to his first wife, Mary Elizabeth, in Dugan Cemetery near Mulberry. Trephonia was joined in her sorrow by her step-children, John Davis age 30, Lou Ellen 27, William W. Jr. 25, Ann 23, George 20, Etta C. 18, Robert 14, Kavanaugh 11, and 9-year-old Clara Mahan.

Dr. Mahan, in his will, directed that his wife Addie would continue to live on the farm and the proceeds of the produce sold were to go to her and his minor children. He requested that his three youngest children receive a liberal education. After they reached legal age, his estate was to be equally divided between all his children. He stated that he had used $300 of his wife's money, therefore, she was to receive $1,000 from his insurance policy. He owed his sister Alice Mahan and requested she be paid. His daughter Annie was given $1000 in trust for her support. His youngest son, Kavanaugh, received his silver watch as a relic. His books and instruments were to be sold unless his son, William Jr., wanted them. Fred Knoble and William's wife, Addie, were to be executors. A codicil requested that his real estate in Prairie Grove be sold and the money given to his wife and children.

Trephonia, who had lived through so many traumatic events, including the death of her parents, two husbands, and her only child, Ida Lee Rogers in 1900, perhaps sought the peace that came to her 6 December 1915. She had suffered from cancer, as had her sister Nancy E. Kidd, and Addie finally lost the fight against pneumonia. She was survived by two brothers Frank and William Dyer, two grandchildren, John O. Parks Rogers and Rica Rogers McCuistion and a number of step-chil-

dren. Those of Prairie Grove who attended the funeral in Mulberry were her son-in-law, Mr. John Rogers, her grandchildren Park Rogers, Mrs. McCuistion. and Mr. James Shoffner.

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Fayetteville Scouts in Photograph Identified

On page 6 of the November 1999 issue of *Flashback*, there was a photograph of Boy Scouts in front of the Fayetteville Administration Building about 1937-39. This was part of a history of the Boy Scouts in Washington County. Only one of the Scouts was identified, and a question, "Who are the others?" appealed to readers for assistance. Dr. James Mashburn has been able to identify all but two of these Scouts. They are, front row: Donald Martin, Jack Hall, Billy Rowland, Jimmy Wages, Buck Guthrie, Lloyd Andrews, Warren Seagraves, _____, Allen Patterson, and Harry Wages. Back row: Edward Brooks, Hugh Browne, Elwood Martin, Frank Gordon, ____, and James Mashburn. ***Photo from Washington County Historical Society files, Shiloh Museum of the Ozarks.*** ❖

JACOB OXFORD OF OXFORD BEND
WASHINGTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS

by Russell Pierce Baker

Jacob Oxford was born on December 28, 1801, apparently in Buncombe County, North Carolina.[1] He was the oldest son of Abel Oxford and Edith Rogers Oxford, who moved west with their family and settled in Giles County, Tennessee as early as 1812.[2] Sometime after 1820 they moved west again and settled for a short time in McNairy County, Tennessee where Abel Oxford left his name on "Oxford Creek."[3]

By 1830, the family's westward wanderings brought them to the new county of Washington in northwest Arkansas.[4] Here they settled along the White River east of Fayetteville in what is now the Wyman Community.[5] Jacob Oxford, Abel's eldest son, received a land grant in McNairy County, Tennessee in 1829; he is listed on that county in the 1830 U. S. Census.[6] However, he soon joined the rest of his family to Washington County, initially settling near his father.[7] In 1870, it was recalled that he moved to the area "39 years" ago.[8]

In October of 1838, he purchased several nearby parcels of land from the Federal Government in Section 36, Township 17 North, Range 29 West.[9] This property lay just to the north and west of the White River, where the road running east from Fayetteville to Kings River crossed the White River in what is now the Habberton or Goshen Community. Later this road would be known as the Oxford Ferry Road; it is now state highway 45.[10] Soon after Jacob settled there, the area became known as Oxford's Bend or just Oxford Bend.[11] Here he built his home and began a large farming operation. It is possible that he had a racetrack at the Bend for he had a reputation for "keeping fast horses."[12] He also had a repu-

tation as a good neighbor and "at various times he took in widows and orphans, somethings even strangers sick or well were welcome." [13] Jacob's first wife, Avy, died about 1838 and soon thereafter he married Rebecca Culwell.[14] Over the next quarter century, Oxford continued to build up a prosperous farm at Oxford Bend. By 1861, he owned some 600 acres of land, three slaves, seven horses, and fourteen cows and had some $2,000 "lent out at interest." [15]

In the Fall of 1861, shortly after the outbreak of the Civil War, William M. Montgomery, a major in the Confederate Quartermaster Department and a close associate of General Ben McCulloch, who was stationed in Fayetteville, began making arrangements for quartering McCulloch's troops during the upcoming winter. On October 19, 1861 in behalf of the Confederate Government he signed a contract with a Benton County miller, Peter Vanwinkle, to build seventy-six cabins at "Cross Hollow" in Benton County and thirty-nine cabins at "Oxford Bend" for this purpose. Evidently, those at Oxford Bend were located on or near the Oxford farm. Each "eighteen feet by thirty-six feet" cabin was to contain two rooms, with a chimney in the center and a fireplace in each room. Each room was also to be furnished with one door, a window, and a floor. For this work, Vanwinkle was to receive $230 for each cabin completed. Moreover, he was to construct at Oxford Bend five stables, each to house 175 horses. Payment was to be made "when funds are received for that purpose" and the work was to be finished by December 10, 1861. When this project was completed, Vanwinkle presented a bill for some $18,620 for the Oxford Bend work to the Confederate Government.[16]

Camp Oxford Bend[17] continued as a Confederate installation until October 28, 1862, when at dawn, elements of the Union Army fell upon this "rebel camp."

After a sharp engagement lasting an hour, the Confederates, numbering some 3,000, were routed, leaving eight dead on the field along with all of their camp equipment and several wagons. Since "all of their camp equipment was destroyed" it is likely that the "cabins" were destroyed as well.[18] No doubt, it was the approach of Federal forces that caused Jacob Oxford and his family to flee to Texas about this time, if not sooner, where they remained until the War ended. Afterwards, when Oxford returned to Oxford Bend, he had "lost much of his wealth." [19] In 1867, he and his neighbors established "a public school called Oxford Bend in White River" near his home.[20]

Jacob Oxford died at Oxford Bend on August 29, 1872 and is buried in the Oxford Bend Cemetery near his home.[21] He and his first wife became the parents of the following children: Lucinda M., William D. (Dock), Thompson, James T., Willis, Louiza M., and Louisa. He and his second wife became the parents of: Avy, John W., Jacob J., Joshua G., Isaac W., Nancy E., Thomas J., Andrew L., and Mary N. (Mollie).[22]

End Notes

1. Lloyd McConnell, *Cemeteries in Washington County, Arkansas* (1980), p. 304; James E. Wooley, *Buncombe County, North Carolina Index to Deeds, 1783-1850* (1983), p. 371; Shiloh Museum, *History of Washington County, Arkansas* (1989), p. 1263-1264, hereafter cited as *Washington County History*; and "Family Group Sheet Abel Oxford," Family Group Sheet – Ancestral File from FamilySearch.com; hereafter cited as "Oxford Family Group Sheet." This last source indicates that Jacob was born in Tennessee. However, his father obtained several parcels of land in Buncombe County, North Carolina between 1802 and 1804.

2. Byron and Barbara Sistler, *Index to Early Tennessee Tax Lists* (1983), p. 153.

3. *The Goodspeed History of Tennessee Henderson, Chester, McNairy, Decatur, and Harden Counties* (1883, reprint 1978), p. 819.

4. *Washington County History* op. cit.; "Oxford Bend," Washington County Historical Society *Flashback* (vol. 4, no. 1, Jan, 1954); "The

Oxfords of Oxford Bend," ibid., (vol. 8, no. 6, Oct., 1958), p. 39; hereafter cited as "The Oxfords"; and "Oxford Family Group Sheet," op. cit. The last source cited states that Abel Oxford died in Washington County, Arkansas in 1850. No independent confirmation of this information was located.

5. Desmond W. Allen and Bobbie J. McLane, *Arkansas Land Patents: Washington County* (1991), p. 132; hereafter cited as Allen and McLane and "Abel Oxford," Washington County Tax Records 1837 on microfilm at the Arkansas History Commission at Little Rock, Arkansas. See also *Washington County Deeds Book D*, p. 540, on microfilm at the History Commission.

6. Byron Sistler and Associates, *Tennessee Land Grants Surnames N-O* (1998), p. 26 and 1830 U. S. Census, McNairy County, Tennessee, p. 118.

7. Allen and McLane, op. cit.; "Jacob Oxford," Washington County Tax Records 1837; and *Washington County Deeds Book A*, p. 312–313.

8. *Fayetteville Democrat*, June 11, 1870, p. 3, col. 2. This article contains an "Old Folks List" of early area settlers.

9. "Entries for Section 36, township 17 North, Range 29 West," *Washington County Abstract of Original Entries – Land*, on microfilm at the History Commission. The pages in this record are unnumbered.

10. "Township 17 North, Range 29 West," *Washington County Original Survey Plat*, on microfilm at the History Commission and "Section 36, Township 17 North, Range 29 West," Gordon V. Skelton, *Atlas Map of Washington County, Arkansas* (1894); hereafter cited as *Atlas Map of Washington County*. The pages in this work are unnumbered.

11. *Goodspeed's Northwest Arkansas* (1888, reprinted in 1978), p. 998.

12. *Fayetteville Democrat*, op. cit. and 1850 Agriculture Census, Prairie Township, Washington County, Arkansas, p. 557.

13. *Washington County History*, op. cit. and 1850 U. S. Census, Prairie Township, Washington County, Arkansas, p. 191.

14. 1840 U. S. Census, Washington County, Arkansas, p. 274. He had evidently not remarried by the date of this census.

15. "Jacob Oxford," 1861 Washington County Tax Records, p. 101.

16. Contract: Major W. M. Montgomery to Peter Vanwinkle. Oct. 19, 1861, photocopy in possession of the author; "Major William M. Montgomery," Individual File, Arkansas History Commission; *The*

War of the Rebellion Records (OR), Series I, vol. III, p. 107; hereafter cited as *OR* and Wiley Britton, *The Civil War on the Border* (1890), p. 197; and 201. See also the Fayetteville, *Arkansas War Bulletin*, Feb. 15, 1862, p. 3, col. 2.

17. Letter: Abraham L. Black, Camp Elm Springs to Col. Thomas Black, January 12, 1862, Small Manuscript Collection (SMC), Box V, no. 1, on microfilm at the History Commission.

18. *OR*, Series I, vol. XIII, p. 20 and 344.

19. "The Oxfords" op cit. and *Goodspeed's Northwest Arkansas*, op cit.

20. Washington County Deeds Book Q, p. 423-424.

21. *Washington County History*, op. cit.

22. ibid. Also compare Jacob's children as listed on: "Jacob Oxford," 1850 U. S. Census, Prairie Township, Washington County, Arkansas, 1860 U. S. Census, Prairie Township, Washington County, Arkansas, and 1870 U. S. Census, Prairie Township, Washington County, Arkansas.

[Russell P. Baker, author of this article, is archival manager of the Arkansas History Commission and State Archives in Little Rock.] ❖

Well, Congratulations Again

From the *Flashback*, March 1957, Vol. 7, No. 2:

"FLASHBACK takes pleasure in congratulating the Prairie Grove folks whose devotion and hard work secured an appropriation of $50,000 from the Arkansas legislature for development of Battlefield Park. It is planned to acquire additional land and erect a Battle Museum when the money becomes available. The Battlefield Foundation sends out periodic "Reports," which can be obtained by writing to Fred McCuiston, director of activities, Prairie Grove, Ark."

We are glad those folks were able to do that !

Read in past *Flashbacks* about the great things done by people in Washington County over the years to preserve history and historic sites. ❖

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